Athens 29th October 1850.

To the members of the
Society of Inquiry in
the Theological Seminary,
at Princeton, New Jersey,
U. S. A.

Dear Brethren,

Your letter of Febs. last, I rec'd. the 19th of April & intended to give it an early answer. But three days after I received it I was taken ill of the measles, which confined me to my bed for nearly a month, & then left me very feeble, & my eyes especially, which though now stronger, are still in such a state, that I am obliged to confine myself to such writing as is absolutely necessary. This is my apology for not having sooner answered your letter, & for the brevity of this communication.

For many years I have felt a peculiar interest in the College at Princeton & the Theological Seminary, arising in part from the fact that I had the pleasure of being personally acquainted with some of the officers of those Institutions, & knew their great worth. One of these was Dr. Miller, whose death you mention in your letter. His influence & that of the Venerable Dr. Alexander, I have no doubt will be felt in your Seminary, & through that, in

many parts of our country, for generations to come. "Being dead yet speaketh." A man's influence, whether for good or evil, does not stop at his death. It passes on, in one channel or another, from generation to generation. So it is with Colleges & Theological Institutions, on which an impress has been made by distinguished individuals. So it is with Governments & the Courts of kings. Impressions made on the Greek character, by certain distinguished individuals, two or three thousand years ago, are still manifest. The influence of your Society, & of other similar Societies in the United States will yet be felt, I have no doubt, to the ends of the earth. It has, I may say, already been felt, to a certain degree, and will be felt more & more, as the light and zeal, & faith & love of the members of those Societies, & the Churches, with which they are connected, increase.

In those trials, to which you refer in your letter, I have often been encouraged & strengthened by the thought, that there were many in my native land, who feel an interest in this field of labour, and were praying for the outpouring of the spirit on this people. I do not yet feel discouraged, though, I must confess, that I have been obliged, sometimes, to hope against hope (Rom. 5, 18, "ὃς παρ' ἐλπίδα ἐπ' ἐλπίδι ἐπίστευσεν, &c.") that what God has promised with regard to all nations, shall be accomplished among this people, who boast of their ancestors' being the light of the world, & disdain the idea that a stranger should come to teach them those truths, once taught to their forefathers "in the midst of Mars-hill," by the great apostle of the gentiles!

Unhappily, after the lapse of Eighteen hundred years, they have need of the same kind of preaching, as that recorded in the 17th Chapter of the acts of the apostles; for the longer I remain among them, the more I perceive, that in all things they are too superstitious, and that the true God is little known among them. And though they may not "think the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone graven by art and man's device", yet he is represented in their churches, as an old man with a long beard, & with this "inscription", O Ων - "I AM."! and on the throne of this great I AM, they seem to have placed a woman, whom they call his Mother! "Mary, the all Holy, the Mother-of-God!"

The [illegible] which Paul once preached in this city, has been so sadly shipwrecked, (1st Tim. 1, 19.) that one can hardly find a board, or bit of the ship big enough to keep a man from sinking. The very essence of Christianity, the doctrine of salvation by faith alone, has been perverted into a doctrine of salvation by works, fastings, penances, alms-giving &c &c, so that if a man has not money to leave to buy prayers for him after he is dead, he is afraid that his soul will go to that place, in which our saviour represented the rich man as lifting up his eyes "being in torments."

I speak now of the mass of the common people, and not of the learned in this city, many of whom I have reason to believe, have rejected, not only the superstitions but the truth also, as it is in Christ, & like the Sadducees of old, believe nothing, though they

prospects to be orthodox members of the Eastern Church. So that on the one hand, I have to combat the deep rooted superstitions & errors of the ignorant, and on the other, the infidelity of men called enlightened.

But I must conclude, for I have already extended this letter far beyond what I expected to do when I commenced it, & my eyes are

very weary and with pain remind me, that they must have repose. I will only add, that the work of Christian missions never appeared to me, more important, than it does now, & that I was never more happy in it, than at present.

Yours truly, Jonas King.